645 by the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, and is subordinate both to the Council of Ministers of the Belorussian SSR and the corresponding Union-Republican Ministry of the USSR.

Art. 50. Each Republican Ministry of the Belorussian SSR directs the branch of state administration entrusted to it and is directly subordinate to the Council of Ministers of the Belorussian SSR.

Art. 51. The Government of the Belorussian SSR or a Minister of the Belorussian SSR to whom a question of a member of the Supreme Soviet of the Belorussian SSR is addressed must give a verbal or written reply in the Supreme Soviet of the Belorussian SSR within a period not exceeding three days.

Chapter V. The Local Organs of State Power

631 Art. 52. The organs of state power in regions, districts, cities, settlements and villages are the Soviets of Working People's Deputies.

Art. 53. The Soviets of Working People's Deputies of regions, districts, cities, districts in big cities, settlements and villages are elected by the working people of the respective regions, districts, cities, settlements and villages for a term of two years.

Art. 54. The Soviets of Working People's Deputies of regions, districts, cities, settlements and villages direct cultural, political and economic affairs on their territory, draw up the local budgets, direct the work of the organs of administration subordinate to them, ensure the maintenance of public order, assist in strengthening the defensive capacity of the country and ensure the observance of the laws and the protection of the rights of citizens.

Art. 55. The Soviets of Working People's Deputies adopt decisions and issue orders within the limits of the powers vested in them by the laws of the USSR and the Belorussian SSR.

Art. 56. The executive and administrative organ of the Soviet of Working People's Deputies of a region, district, city, settlement or village is the Executive Committee elected by it, consisting of a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, a Secretary and members.

● [623] Art. 57. The executive and administrative organ of the Soviet of Working People's Deputies in a small locality is the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman and the Secretary elected by the Soviet of Working People's Deputies.

Art. 58. The Executive Committee of the Soviet of Working People's Deputies of a region, district, city, settlement or village exercises guidance in cultural, political and economic affairs within its territory on the basis of decisions taken by the corresponding Soviet of Working People's Deputies and superior state organs.

Art. 59. Sessions of regional Soviets of Working People's Deputies are convened by their respective Executive Committees not less than three times a year.

Sessions of district Soviets of Working People's Deputies are convened by their respective Executive Committees not less than four times a year.

Art. 60. Sessions of Soviets of Working People's Deputies of cities, districts in big cities, settlements and villages are convened by their respective executive organs not less than once a month.

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631 Art. 61. The Soviets of Working People's Deputies of regions, districts, cities or districts in big cities each elect a Chairman and a Secretary for the duration of their sessions to conduct the sittings of the sessions.

[623] Art. 62. The Chairman of a settlement or village Soviet convenes the Soviet and conducts its sittings.

Art. 63. The executive organs of the Soviets of Working People's Deputies are directly accountable both to the Soviets of Working People's Deputies which elected them and to the executive organs of the respective superior Soviets of Working People's Deputies.

Art. 64. The superior Executive Committees of the Soviets of Working People's Deputies have the right to annul decisions and orders of inferior Executive Committees and to suspend decisions and orders of inferior Soviets of Working People's Deputies.

Art. 65. The superior Soviets of Working People's Deputies have the right to annul decisions and orders of inferior Soviets of Working People's Deputies and of their Executive Committees.

634 Art. 66. The regional Soviets of Working People's Deputies set up the following Departments and Administrations of their Executive Committees:

- a Department of Agriculture
- a Department of Finance
- a Department of Trade
- a Department of Public Health
- a Department of Public Education
- a Department of Local Industry
- a Department of Municipal Economy
- a Department of Social Maintenance
- a Department of Motor Transport
- a Department of Local Fuel Industry
- a Department of Roads
- a General Department
- a Department of Arts
- a Department of Village and Kolkhos Building
- a Department of Cultural and Educational Institutions
- a Planning Commission
- a Cadres Sector

under the Chairman of the Chairman of the Executive Committee and, in addition, in accordance with the specific features of the economy of the Region, the regional Soviets of Working People's Deputies set up the following Departments, subject to confirmation by the Union-Republican Ministries of Light Industry, Food Industry, Timber Industry and State Farms:

- a Department of Light Industry
- a Department of Food Industry
- a Department of Timber Industry
- a Department of State Farms.

[625] Art. 67. The Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Ministry of State Security and the Ministry of Justice of the Union set up their own administrations under the regional Soviets of Working People's Deputies, in accordance with the conditions of the region and on the basis of the laws of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the Belorussian Soviet Socialist Republic.